महोदया ने स्वीकार किया है इस शर्त पर बात-चीत करके उन्हें वापिस लेने के लिए। इससे साफ मालूम होता है कि बंगला देश की सरकार उनको वापिस लेने की मनःस्थिति में बरसों तक नहीं रही है, अब केवल एक प्रेशर के कारण उन्होंने स्वीकार किया है, इसलिए ईमानदारी दिखाई नहीं देती। पिछले वर्षों की घटनाएं इस बात का सबूत हैं कि जितने भी हिन्दू हैं, बौद्ध हैं, उनको वहां से खदेड़ा जा रहा है। मेरा प्रश्न है कि क्या उनको मालूम है कि जो रोंगिया रिफ्यूजीस हैं, जो बर्मा से आए हैं, उनको वहां पर बसाया जा रहा है और इसके साथ ही मारी मशोनरी और मिलट्री के लोग भी जो यह चकमा वापिस जाते हैं उनको खदेड़ते हैं? क्या यह सच नहीं है? ऐसी स्थिति में उनसे समझौते की बातें करने के बाद क्या फल निकलेगा? दूसरी ओर आपका रवैया यह है कि आपने त्रिपुरा की सरकार को कह दिया है कि 1 जनवरी, 1993 के बाद आप कोई सहायता उनको नहीं देंगे। तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह हालात जानते हुए भी कि वहां की बंगला देश की सरकार बड़ी मुश्किल से राजी हुई है बात करने के लिए, यह कोई खुशी का मौका नहीं है। लेकिन उनकी जो असली नीयत है, उसको दर्शाता है। तो क्या वहां पर रोंगियो रि-हैबिलेट हो रहे हैं? उन्होंने माना है कि हम उनको वहां रि-हैबिलेट नहीं करेंगे। पोलिटिकल कमेटी की बात कही है, तो पोलिटिकल कमेटी क्या करना चाहती है और आप जनवरी, 1993 से सहायता क्यों बंद कर रहे हैं?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, help is not being stopped from January. As I said, we have recognised these people as refugees.

As far as the political committee, which has been mentioned by the hon. Member is concerned, I may add that this is an all-party, multi-party political committee. The political committee appointed by the Bangladesh Government consists of Members of Parliament belonging to the different political parties there. They are having talks, discussions, with the Chakma organisations, including those which are within our territory. These talks are going on. There have been a few rounds of talks and these are proceeding.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : इन्होंने कहा है कि हम जनवरी, 1993 से सरकार की मदद नहीं करेंगे। The Central Government has intimated the Tripura Government that from 1st January, 1993, the Central Government would stop the aid.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I have already answered this. In regard to those who are refugees, we have certain obligations towards them. We will fulfil those obligations towards these refugees.

श्री विष्णु कांत शास्त्री : माननीय सभापति जी, मुझे एक निवेदन करने की आज्ञा दी जाए।

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry. If you will excuse me, I find that, already, there is a lot of frustration in the House, particularly, among backbenchers. They want that more questions should be covered in the Question Hour. We have taken more than fifteen minutes on this question. May I, therefore, go on to Question No. 42?

उर्वरकों पर राज-सहायता में वृद्धि

*42. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 1991-92 में उर्वरकों पर दी गई राज-सहायता की राशि की तुलना में 1992-93 में दी जाने वाली राज-सहायता की राशि में वृद्धि की गई है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी,

(ग) क्या चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान उर्वरकों पर राज-सहायता की राशि, इस प्रयोजनार्थ 1992-93 के बजट में उपलब्ध करायी गई राशि से अधिक हो जाने की संभावना है,

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने चालू वर्ष के दौरान राज-सहायता की राशि में कमी करने के लिए कोई कदम उठाए थे;

*सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री राम जेठमलानी द्वारा पूछा गया

(च) क्या उनके परिणामस्वरूप अनेक उर्वरकों की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है और क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के फलस्वरूप न तो उपभोक्ताओं को और न ही सरकार तथा उत्पादकों को कोई लाभ पहुंचा है; और

(छ) क्या सरकार अपनी उर्वरक नीति पर पुनर्विचार करने के बारे में सोच रही है, यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिंता मोहन) : (क) से (छ) एक विवरण-पत्र सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) से (घ) सरकार द्वारा 1992-93 के लिए उर्वरकों पर व्यय की जाने वाली राज-सहायता के दायित्व का अनुमान 5177 करोड़ रुपये लगाया गया है । यह 1991-92 में व्यय किए गए लगभग 6200 करोड़ रुपये के दायित्व के समतुल्य है । तथापि, 1991-92 में दायित्व को पूरा करने के लिए बजट आबंटन केवल 4800 करोड़ रुपए का तथा वास्तविक व्यय 4799.60 करोड़ रुपए था। तदनुसार 1991-92 से भुगतान न की गयी राजसहायता की चालू वर्ष में आगे लायी गयी राशि लगभग 1400 करोड़ रुपये थी । गत वर्ष से आगे लायी गयी राशि सहित चालू वर्ष में राजसहायता की कुल अपेक्षा 6577 करोड़ रुपये बैठती है । इस स्तर पर 1992-93 के लिए बजट में किया गया आबंटन 5000 करोड़ रुपये है । आबंटन को उपयुक्त रूप से बढ़ाने के लिए उपाय किए गए है ।

(ङ) उर्वरक मूल्य निर्धारित संबंधी संयुक्त संसदीय समिति की सिफारिशों के आधार पर फास्फेटिक तथा पोटेसिक उर्वरक को 25-8-1992 से मूल्य और संचलन नियंत्रण से हटा दिया गया था ।

(च) अनियंत्रित उर्वरकों के मूल्य में वृद्धि हुई है । तथापि, वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए तथा परिणामी प्रवर्धित लागतों के लिए किसानों की भरपाई करने के लिए अनेक उपाय किए गए है । उद्योग के लिए भी कुछ उपायों की घोषणा की गयी है ताकि उनके उत्पादन की लागत को कम किया जा सके । अतः यह कहना सही नहीं है कि हाल ही में किए गए उपायों से न तो उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ हुआ है और न ही सरकार और उत्पादकों को ।

(छ) इस समय ऐसे किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार नहीं किया जा रहा है ।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, in answer to part(f) of the question, the hon. Minister has said : "However, a number of steps have been taken to contain the increase and to compensate farmers for the resultant increased costs." But the answer is delightfully vague as to what the nature of these steps is. I wish the hon. Minister had taken some trouble to detail the steps taken. Now, therefore, will the hon. Minister tell us what these steps are ? More particularly, I would like to know whether there has been any attempt to evaluate the effect of these measures. I say this because there are persistent reports that the farmers have already started switching over to cash crops and our production is going to suffer terribly.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Specific steps and implementation.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : And evaluation.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Sir, the Government has taken a number of steps to help the farmers. The Department of Agriculture is looking after this work.

From our side, from the Department of Fertilisers, we have reduced the price of urea by 10 per cent. Earlier, the price of urea was about Rs. 3000 per tonne. We have reduced it by 10 per cent. As a result of this, the price of urea has come down now. In the case of other fertilisers like calcium ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate and ammonium chloride, earlier, they were decontrolled. But after the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, we have brought them under control. The prices have come down. In regard to di-ammonium phosphate and muriate of potash, the Government has given a package to the farmers. We have reduced their price by Rs. 1,000 per tonne during current Rabi season. The amount has already been released by the Department of Agriculture. The various tates are implementing this.

As for the procurement price, the Department of Agriculture has increased it by 17 per cent for Kharif crops. In the case of import of di-ammonium phosphate, the Government has taken a commendable step. We are allowing even the State Governments to import di-ammonium phosphate directly so that the farmers will be able to get this fertiliser at a cheaper rate. Earlier, it was a canalised item. Now, we have de-canalised it. Some agencies in States like Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh are taking steps for importing this fertiliser directly.

As regards the raw materials for the fertiliser industry, like phosphoric acid, we have reduced the duty. Rail freight has also been reduced. We have given foreign exchange at the official rate for the import of raw materials for di-ammonium phosphate, which is an importatnt fertiliser. Through these measures the Government has given a lot of benefits to farmers. We are trying to do our best. The Department of Agriculture has recently given Rs. 500 crores to different States.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the evaluation, what is the effect ?

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : There are three types of nutrients in the country. One is nitrogen, the other is phosphate and the third is potash. Urea consumption has gone up by 35 per cent. Because we reduced rates of urea the farmers have started using this fertilizer more.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Urea consumption is going up. Is it good for the soil without balancing it with potassium and phosphate ?

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : After decontrol, the consumption of phosphate and potash has come down by 30 per cent. The Department of Agriculture is evaluating all this and very soon the farmers will come to a stage when they will purchase potash and phosphate and try to improve the situation.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : In the mind of the Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it your second supplementary ?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I am still on the first supplementary. The Minister does not distinguish between the disease and the remedy. He says, we have reduced the subsidy and reduction of subsidy is the cause of the farmers' problem. He considers that as one of the steps which he has taken to alleviate their suffering.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, he has given a fairly good answer about the steps.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : He has said that the Agriculture Ministry has taken steps. He should say about the number of steps that the hon. Member has asked. What are those steps ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has enumerated the steps he has taken. It will take time to see the results. Please ask the second supplementary.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Let me ask the second supplementary which is also intimately connected with the first one.

Sir, there are persistent reports that there are conflicting advices being received from all quarters. The JPC has spoken with one voice, the CCPA has totally, diametrically opposed some of the views. The Committee of Secretaries has given the third kind of advice. The Ministries are pulling in different directions. The Agriculture Ministry is going one way, the Petroleum Ministry is talking of something else. The Finance Ministry is absolutely at loggerheads with all of them. And I am told that the Prime Minister has not been able to make any sense of this Babel of tongues. I am told that the Government is now awaiting the final verdict from the IMF. In view of these reports; is the Government prepared to extend an assurance to this House that they will either increase the support price adequately or ask the farmers to compete and sell in the open market ? These are the two remedies.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, Mr. Jethmalani's imagination is running riot as it usually does. There have been different interests asking for different concessions. This always happens. The consumer's interest is not the same as the producer's. We have to balance all these interests and

the measures which my colleague has just enumerated clearly show that we are not leaning to one interest, we are taking all interests into consideration. It is possible that as a result of this there will be some satisfaction and also some discontent in each one of them, but then this is how it has to be done. One point raised by Mr. Jethmalani is very valid that there has been and there is likely to be even more diversion of lands from foodgrains to cash crops. It is not because of the measures which we have taken recently, but that has been happening for a number of years. It is for this Parliament, for the Government to consider this seriously, the dimension of which has not been fully appreciated. I personally feel very worried about it because the time may come when everyone will change over to cash crops. I know from my experience that even double-crop wet lands are being diverted that way. So, this is a serious matter which we are considering. We will come to the House for the advice of the honourable Members.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I think the Prime Minister should feel happy that we will have an opportunity to import more wheat.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I am glad that the Prime Minister concedes that it is not all imagination on this side.

AN HON. MEMBER : That is your imagination.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, I would like to ask Dr. Jitendra Kumar Jain for the third supplementary.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Yes, Sir. And my name is Jinendra Kumar Jain and not Jitendra Kumar Jain.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sorry. Thank you. . . (*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER : Video Jain !

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Video Jain !

MR. CHAIRMAN : I correct myself. So, please proceed.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, the Government claims that it wishes to benefit the farmers. Personally I believe the genuineness of the Prime Minister's intentions, but the truth is that the policies of this Government are hitting the farmers very hard. I wish to request the hon. Prime Minister through you, Sir, that he should explain to this House as to what are his compulsions which are resulting in the gap between his intentions and his actions.

Coming to the specific of the supplementary that I wish to put from whatever answer has been given, I have two parts of my supplementary : Part (a) is, despite the saving of Rs. 3,200 crores due to partial decontrol of measures, the total subsidy bill on fertilizers has shot up to Rs. 6,577 crores as against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 5,000 crores in the present financial year. How does the Government explain this ? Part (b) of my supplementary is, the Government is considering all the plans to mobilize finances and meet the problem of the growing fertilizer subsidy bill, but it is amazing that the two parties involved in the dispute are the Ministry of Fertilizers and the Ministry of Petroleum. The Corporations under both the Ministries had diverted their funds to the stock scam, and the Prime Minister had made a solemn promise in this House and also to the people of India from the ramparts of the Red Fort... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please frame your question now.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Okay, Sir. I have said there are two parts of this. I conclude my supplementary by saying that I hope the Prime Minister will take us into confidence and explain to us his compulsions and the two specifics. How does the Government explain the gap that I have mentioned just now and also the malfunctioning in the Government that on the one hand they do not have money to invest for the farmers and on the other they are diverting funds to other places ? How do you propose to overcome this problem ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. The Minister may kindly answer.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : The supplementary is not on fertilizers but on...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a much larger question.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, it is for the Agriculture Minister to answer, but I would briefly put it like this. We have to pay between Rs. 8,000—9,000 crores as fertilizer subsidy this year. If we had not changed this policy, next year it would have jumped to Rs. 11,000—12,000 crores. Now, where is all this money going ? This money, partly, is going to finance the inefficiency of some of our factories. The point is that a large number of factories within the country are not doing well. We will have to look into that very carefully and see that they are brought back to health ...(*Interruptions*)... Please let me finish. Meanwhile we have to go on importing phosphatic and potassic fertilizers because we just do not have them here. We do not have either the raw material or anything. Even the raw material, if we want to manufacture them, has to come from outside. So this is an inevitability. For a long time to come this is going to be a fact of life with Indian agriculture. So, until such time as we make some discovery, a new discovery of raw materials in this country, this is going to continue. And we cannot go on mounting the subsidy for all time to come. So, some brake has to be put somewhere. I would be very happy to explain all this if you can have a fuller debate on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is, there will be.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : But the point is that a balance has to be brought for this year because we cannot ask the farmer to bear the full brunt of the decontrol. So, we have given him Rs. 1,000 per tonne subsidy on DAP and MOP during the current season, Rs. 500 crores has been provided to the States to help those who do not have a marketable surplus and still have to buy fertilizer at higher prices. Again, whatever duties within the Government of India were being imposed on fertilizer, the movement of fertilizer, which had to be paid for by the farmer, have been waived by the Government. Whatever is possible within the Ministries of the Government to lighten the burden on the farmer, has been done. But, still, the farmer has to pay a higher price, for which the procurement prices, the support prices have been increased. This is the kind of balance that has been attempted. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the Prime Minister has given a very clear, convincing reply. May I ask Mr. Upendra next ?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the Prime Minister's admission that the farmers are switching over to cash crops is an indication of the short-sighted policy we are adopting on fertilizer prices and subsidies. The farmers are switching over not only to cash crops but to pisciculture also. Therefore, I feel that, whether it is due to compulsion of our budget or a suggestion from the IMF, we should revise this policy before it is too late. Otherwise, we will be compelled to import foodgrains year after year. I would specifically ask the Prime Minister, as it was indicated, that we should have a full debate in this House and the other House also on this policy.

Also, I would like to know this from him. As far as this year is concerned, the subsidy should have been Rs. 6,577 crores including the backlog.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please formulate your supplementary.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : They have provided only Rs. 5,000 crores. Are they going to increase this allocation to cover the backlog also ?

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : The farmers are switching over to cash crops. The reason is that they are getting more profits from the cash crops. Upendraji knows very well that the people in Andhra Pradesh, instead of going for paddy, are going for groundnut. The reason is that they are getting more benefit from the groundnut crops. That is the reason.

The second thing is about the subsidy. This year the Finance Ministry has released Rs. 5,000 crores, and next year it is likely to come down. With the decontrol next year they are likely to give approximately Rs. 4,000 crores. That is what the Department of Fertilizer is expecting from them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I say that we are allowing a short-duration discussion on this matter.

I would ask the next Member, Shri I. K. Gujral.

डा. अबरार अहमद : सर, इधर तरफ भी चांस दीजिये ।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : आपको जो पूछना है वह बाद में पूछिये ।

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Sir, the entire issue is being looked at only in terms of monetary inputs. The main point basically is that the Planning Commission has fixed some targets, till the end of the Eighth Plan. For the production of food-grains, if I remember correctly, it is about 220 million tonnes. The whole issue has to be looked at from the point of view of whether, with the inputs being given for agriculture today at the prices which come to prevail after the withdrawal of the subsidy, shall we ever reach that target or not. Experts tell us that it is unlikely. Therefore, the issue is not whether we are giving Rs. 9,000 crores or Rs. 5,000 crores or Rs. 2,000 crores. The basic issue is the colossal investment that agriculture needs. Is it being denied, or is it being added to ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, that is a very good question and a good suggestion is also contained in the question. We have to see how much outlays we are actually making in agriculture in a number of ways. It is not just on subsidy, whether it is subsidy which is better for the farmer or the other package of facilities and investments that we are giving him. This is what we are going into. This is what we have gone into. In the New Agricultural Policy, all these matters have figured very prominently. I hope the Policy is going to come before the Houses shortly. We would have a full opportunity of commenting on it.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : आपने जिनको मौका दिया है उनमें से किसी का भी संबंध खेती से नहीं है **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : One minute, we are going to have a short duration discussion on this and the Policy will also be discussed later ... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH : You have given opportunity to the Members who have no connection with agriculture... *(Interruptions)* ...

डा. अबरार अहमद : इधर भी बैठे हैं **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will come to you.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मेरा अनुरोध है कि प्रधानमंत्री जी दो बिन्दुओं को स्पष्ट करें । यह परिस्थिति इसलिए उत्पन्न हुई है कि जे.पी.सी. की रिपोर्ट को गलत ढंग से सरकार ने इम्पलीमेंट किया है । पहली बात यह है कि जे.पी.सी. ने कहा है कि गैस का प्राइस घटा दिया जाए, इनपुट्स जो इम्पोर्ट करते हैं उन पर इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी घटा दी जाए, एडवरटाइजमेंट कास्ट जो करीब 22 प्रतिशत है, उसको घटा दिया जाए और ट्रांसपोर्ट कास्ट को भी घटाने का जिक्र किया गया है । अगर आप यह काम नहीं करते हैं, एडवरटाइजमेंट कास्ट कुछ भी नहीं घटी है **(व्यवधान)** आपको बार-बार स्कूल के लड़के की तरह उठाए, यह हम नहीं करेंगे । इसलिए आपका थोड़ा सा उम्र का भी ख्याल है । मुझे कम्पलीट कर लेने दीजिये । इसलिए तो हम आपकी चर्चा करते हैं, दोनों मिल कर के

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you ask the question, nobody will get up. Please ask the question.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I want to put the question very clearly. The first part of my question is that the JPC had recommended a certain cut in the price of gas, reduction of duty on inputs and the advertisement cost which is more than 22 per cent. So far the Government has not implemented these things. As a result of this, this situation has arisen; otherwise everything would have been normal in the sense there would have no rise in prices of fertilisers necessitating high subsidy ... *(Interruptions)* ...

The second part of my question is that the employees and officers of the Fertilizer Corporation have submitted a plan to the Government. I discussed about it with the Finance Minister and we have come to a certain conclusion. These corporations are paying the workers without any work. There is an acute shortage of fertilizers. You are importing them because you did not take action on this point. The Fertilizer portfolio is under the Prime Minister. The Government have not acted on time. Therefore, this situation has arisen. On these two points, I require clarifications.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, as far as I recall, with the exception of what was to be done by the Ministry of Petroleum, all other things have been done. The difficulty with the Petroleum Ministry has been that if you want them to pay, you will have to pay them again for the losses incurred by them. So it does not make any sense to make that Ministry pay. So we have had to reconsider it. But we have not yet, perhaps, given up, we will still try to persuade them to do their bit what has been recommended. On the transport front, it has been done. The Railways have done it. Others have done it. If there is anything which still needs to be done, we will certainly go into it. But the point is that the recommendations of the JPC have been, by and large, implemented... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry... *(Interruptions)*... We have already spent twenty minutes on this question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : I need only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, I will have to call somebody else who has caught my eye much earlier. Q. No. 43. As I said, there are going to be two discussions here on the subject. You will have ample opportunities for expressing your views. Question No. 43. *(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER : I may be allowed to put a question on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. You will have an opportunity in the discussion. *(Interruptions)*. Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*. You will have all the opportunities in the discussions. Now please leave time for other questions.

श्री एस. एस. अहलूवालिया : आपका समर्थन करने की बात कही गयी है । आज ही बिगड गये ? अभी कहा था इन्होंने इतने बड़े-बड़े भाषण दिये इन्होंने । **(व्यवधान)**

डा. अबरार अहमद : इस साइड से किसी को भी चांस नहीं दिया... **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 43. Mr. Ram Gopal Yadav.

Visit of Indian Delegation to China

*43. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian delegation visited China in the last week of October, 1992 to hold talks on the border issue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The fifth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question and the Foreign Secretary—Vice Minister level consultations were held on October 28 and 29, 1992. The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit and the Chinese delegation by Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Xu Dunxin.

During the meeting the Joint Working Group continued its discussion on the India-China boundary question. At the Foreign Secretary—Vice Minister level consultations, there was an exchange of views on all aspects of India-China bilateral relations and international issues of interest to both sides. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the steady progress in bilateral relations in various spheres. It was agreed that further points would be opened to border trade, with details to be worked out in future consultations.